

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Tirumala Hills, Erra Matti Dibbalu Enter UNESCO Tentative List

- Andhra Pradesh's natural marvels, the Tirumala Hills and the Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Dunes) near **Visakhapatnam**, have achieved a major milestone by being added to the **UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites**.
- **Erra Matti Dibbalu**
 - Declared a National Geo-heritage Monument in 2016 by the Geological Survey of India (GSI)
 - First documented in 1886 by British geologist William King
 - Distinct reddish hue due to natural iron oxidation over millennia
 - One of only three such sites globally (others in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu)
 - A window into past climatic and sea-level fluctuations
- **Tirumala Hills and the Eparchaeon Unconformity**
 - The Tirumala Hills, home to the world-famous Tirupati temple, are also home to a geological marvel: the Eparchaeon Unconformity.



Albania Appoints World's First AI Cabinet Minister

- Albania made history by appointing Diella, the world's first artificial intelligence-powered cabinet minister. Launched by Prime Minister Edi Rama at the Socialist Party assembly in Tirana, Diella has been tasked with managing public procurement, a sector often plagued by corruption and inefficiency.
- This innovative move positions Albania at the forefront of digital governance, blending artificial intelligence with political decision-making.
- **Who is Diella?**
- Diella is not a human minister but a virtual AI avatar integrated into Albania's digital governance portal, E-Albania.
- **Name Origin:** "Diella" comes from the Albanian word for "sun."
- **Why Public Procurement?**
- Public procurement is one of the most corruption-prone sectors in Albania. By assigning this portfolio to an AI-powered minister, the government aims to,
- Reduce corruption risks by removing human bias.
- Ensure fairness in awarding tenders.
- Increase efficiency in bureaucratic processes.



PM Modi Launches 'Gyan Bharatam Portal'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th September 2025 launched the 'Gyan Bharatam Portal', a dedicated digital platform for manuscript digitisation, preservation, and public access.
- **Gyan Bharatam Portal**
- **Digitisation & Preservation:** Identifying, documenting, conserving, and digitising India's vast manuscript heritage.
- **National Digital Repository:** Creating a centralised digital library accessible to scholars and the public.
- **AI-driven Access:** Leveraging modern technologies like artificial intelligence for search, translation, and annotation of manuscripts.
- **Research & Publication:** Facilitating research, translation, and publication of rare and ancient manuscripts.
- **Capacity Building:** Training scholars, conservators, and institutions in manuscript preservation techniques.
- **Public Participation:** Collaborative programs to involve the wider public in heritage conservation.
- **Global Collaboration:** Establishing international partnerships for knowledge exchange and preservation best practices.



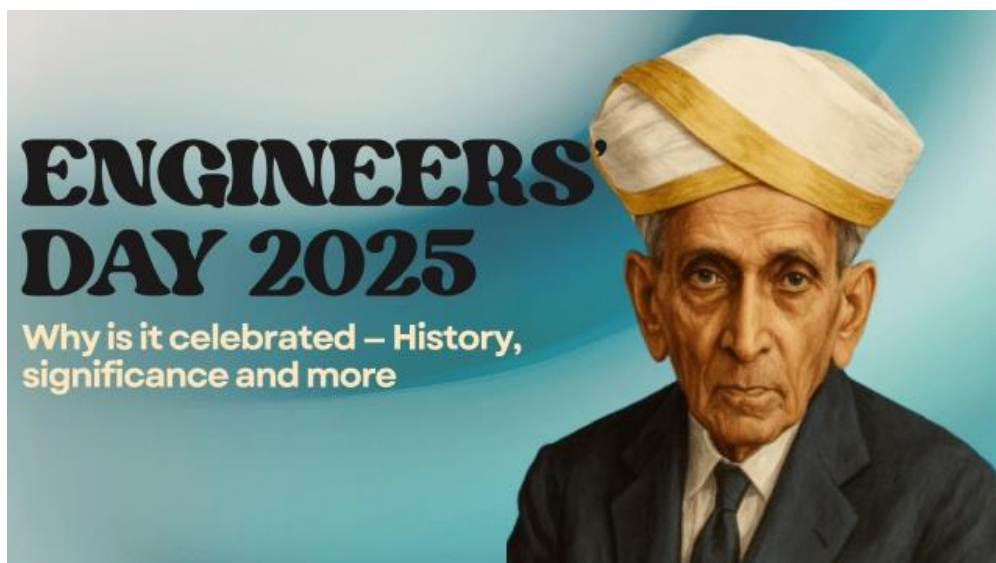
India, Norway Hold First Maritime Security Dialogue

- India and Norway convened their inaugural Maritime Security, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Dialogue in Oslo, marking a significant development in their growing strategic partnership.
- This dialogue signals a shared commitment to promoting maritime stability, upholding international norms, and enhancing multilateral cooperation on key global security challenges.
- **Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**
 - Updates on global disarmament efforts, including nuclear and conventional weapons control
 - Discussion on multilateral treaties and frameworks, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
 - Commitment to uphold non-proliferation norms amid growing geopolitical tensions
- **Maritime Security and Law**
 - Emphasis on maintaining maritime order based on international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
 - Focus on building a secure maritime environment for sustainable economic growth
 - Discussion on freedom of navigation, maritime trade routes, and safe maritime practices



Engineers' Day 2025

- On the occasion of Engineers' Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid heartfelt homage to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, whose pioneering contributions laid the foundation for India's modern engineering landscape.
- Born on **15 September 1861**, Sir Visvesvaraya is widely regarded as the architect of modern India's engineering practices. Engineers' Day pays tribute to his brilliance, dedication, and far-reaching impact in the fields of water resources, infrastructure, and nation-building.
- Visvesvaraya is best remembered for his pioneering work in **irrigation and flood control systems**. His design of the automatic sluice gates installed at the Khadakwasla reservoir near Pune was a groundbreaking innovation of his time. These gates were later replicated at several dams across India.
- He also played a central role in the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam in Mysuru**, which transformed the region's agriculture and economy. Beyond water management, he contributed to the development of Hyderabad's drainage system, preventing recurrent floods.
- While India celebrates Engineers' Day on **September 15**, the UNESCO-recognised World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development is observed on March 4 every year. This global observance highlights the role of engineers in achieving the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**.
- In 2025, the theme of World Engineering Day was '**Engineering solutions for a sustainable world**', focusing on innovations that balance technological growth with environmental responsibility.



‘National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025’

- The two-day ‘National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025’, organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare began at Pusa, New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference — **‘One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team’** — is a significant step towards promoting coordinated efforts and partnerships in the agricultural sector.
- Shri Chouhan said that agriculture in the country is growing at 3.7 percent, the highest in the world, thanks to the hard work of our farmers and scientists, and the government’s farmer-friendly policies.
- **Objectives of Rabi Abhiyan 2025**
- Formulate an action plan for Rabi crops such as wheat, barley, mustard, chickpeas, and lentils
- Promote climate-resilient and water-efficient practices
- Drive input efficiency in fertilizers, irrigation, and seeds
- Strengthen farmer advisory systems and digital outreach
- Ensure alignment with national food security goals
- **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan – Phase 2**
- The conference is part of the second phase of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, launched to transform Indian agriculture by,
- Enhancing agronomic planning at state and district levels
- Scaling agricultural best practices
- Integrating technology and innovation with field practices



FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, congratulated Vaishali Rameshbabu for winning the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2025. "Her passion and dedication are exemplary. Best wishes for her future endeavours", Shri Modi stated.
- Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali secured the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss title for the second consecutive time, earning a place in the women's Candidates tournament after a hard-fought draw against former **world champion Zhongyi Tan** of China in the 11th and final round.



Anandkumar Velkumar Gold in the Speed Skating World Championships 2025

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Anandkumar Velkumar for winning the Gold at the Senior Men's 1000m Sprint in the Speed Skating World Championships 2025.



Mohammed Siraj Named ICC Men's Player of August 2025

- India's fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been awarded the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2025, following a match-winning performance in the final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England at The Oval.
- Despite playing only one match during the month, Siraj's standout spell was enough to edge past competitors Matt Henry (New Zealand) and Jayden Seales (West Indies) to secure the prestigious honour.



ICC Women's Player of the Month (August 2025): Orla Prendergast

- Ireland's rising cricket star Orla Prendergast has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2025. The 23-year-old all-rounder showcased exceptional performances in T20Is, especially against Pakistan, helping Ireland secure major series victories.
- Her impactful batting and bowling displays have brought her international recognition and boosted the visibility of women's cricket.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for August 2025?

- A. Jasprit Bumrah
- B. Mohammed Siraj
- C. Ben Stokes
- D. Pat Cummins

ANSWER: B

2. Which cricket star was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for August 2025?

- A. Smriti Mandhana
- B. Orla Prendergast
- C. Meg Lanning
- D. Harmanpreet Kaur

ANSWER: B

3. Against which team did Orla Prendergast showcase exceptional performances in T20Is to secure major series victories?

- A. Australia
- B. Pakistan
- C. England
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: B

4. India–Norway Maritime Security, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Dialogue held in

- A. New Delhi
- B. Oslo
- C. Mumbai
- D. Geneva

ANSWER: B

5. What is the name of the digital platform launched by PM Modi for manuscript digitisation and preservation?

- A. Bharat Knowledge Portal
- B. Digital Gyan Abhiyan
- C. Gyan Bharatam Portal

D. India Heritage Portal

ANSWER: C

6. Which country appointed Diella, the world's first AI-powered cabinet minister?

A. Norway

B. Albania

C. Estonia

D. Sweden

ANSWER: B

7. Which two natural sites of Andhra Pradesh have been added to the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites?

A. Araku Valley & Borra Caves

B. Tirumala Hills & Erra Matti Dibbalu

C. Lambasingi & Papikondalu

D. Simhachalam & Nagarjuna Sagar

ANSWER: B

8. Engineers' Day in India is celebrated in honour of which eminent personality?

A. M. Visvesvaraya

B. Vikram Sarabhai

C. Homi J. Bhabha

D. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

9. What was the theme of the 'National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025'?

A. Farmers First – India First

B. Food Security for All

C. Sustainable Agriculture for Growth

D. One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team

ANSWER: D

10. Who won the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss title in 2025 for the second consecutive time?

A. Koneru Humpy

B. R Vaishali

C. Zhongyi Tan

D. Hou Yifan

ANSWER: B



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EXAMS